

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OC-05 CCO-00 OMB-01

SCCT-01 IO-10 SY-05 USSS-00 SCA-01 DHA-02 ORM-01 /084 W

----- 099975

O P 141355Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6286

INFO AMCONGEN ASMARA IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PFOR ET US

SUBJECT: TEFERI BANTE PRESS CONFERENCE: GISTING

REF: ADDIS 10990 (NOTAL)

THERE FOLLOWS GIST VOA STRINGER'S REPORT FILED SEPARATELY
ON SEPT 14 PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY EPMG CHAIRMAN BG TEFERI
BANTE. CHAIRMAN SPOKE IN AMHARIC AND WAS TRANSLATED, IN PART BY
FONMIN KIFLE WODAJO WHO HANDLED PASSAGES OF KAGNEW (BELOW)
CHOOSING HIS WORDS CAREFULLY."

BEGIN TEXT

1. BG TEFERI BANTE ADMITTED THAT SECESSIONIST FORCES IN ERITREA

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STILL HAD THE CAPABILITY OF ENGAGING IN TERRORIST ACTS. HE SAID

HOWEVER THAT GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES HAD THE SITUATION UNDER GENERAL CONTROL. BG TEFERI CONFIRMED THAT THE SECESSIONISTS HAD CARRIED OUT AN ATTACK AGAINST THE US COMMUNICATIONS BASE IN ASMARA JND SAID THAT GOVERNMENT FORCES WERE TRYING TO LOCATE WHERE THE TWO AMERICANS AND SIX ETHIOPIANS KIDNAPPED DURING THE ATTACKS HAD BEEN TAKEN. HE SAID ETHIOPIA HAD BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS CONCERNING THE ATTACK AND SAID THE RAID WAS PROBABLY CARRIED OUT IN AN ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT THE (REVOLUTION DAY) CELEBRATIONS. BG TEFERI SAID THAT EVEN BEFORE THE ATTACK THE US AND ETHIOPIA HAD AGREED THAT THE "ACTIVITIES OF THE KAGNEW BASE SHOULD COME TO AN END." AND HE SAID "THE CURRENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SPECIFIED THAT THE BASE SHOULD CLOSE DOWN BY THE END OF THIS YEAR."

2. BG TEFERI SAID THAT THE EPMG WANTS A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE ERITREAN PROBLEM BUT REITERATED THAT ERITREA WOULD REMAIN A PART OF ETHIOPIA. HE SAID CONTACTS HAD BEEN MADE WITH ARAB COUNTRIES IN AN EFFORT TO PUT FORWARD ETHIOPIAN VIEWPOINTS CONCERNING ERITREA. AND HE SAID THAT THIS HAD RESULTED IN SUPPORT FROM SEVERAL "AFRO-ARAB COUNTRIES".

3. TURNING TO THE ULTIMATE FATE OF THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE FORMER ROYAL FAMILY, BG TEFERI SAID THAT CONTRARY TO MALICIOUS RUMORS THEY WERE BEING WELL CARED FOR AND WERE ONLY MOVED FROM PLACE TO PLACE FOR THEIR OWN PROTECTION. HE DID NOT SAY WHEN THEY WOULD BE RELEASED BUT SAID "IT WOULD BE WRONG TO ASSUME THEY WOULD DIE IN PRISON."

4. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, BG TEFERI FAILED TO DENY THAT 1200 ZAMECHOCH WERE BEING HELD IN A CAMP AT HOLETTA A FEW MILES OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL. HOWEVER, "THEY ARE NOT UNDER DETENTION" HE POINTED OUT. "THEY ARE MERELY BEING RE-EDUCATED AND THE RING LEADERS AMONG THEM FOUND OUT."

5. ON THE FORMATION OF A NATIONAL PARTY, BG TEFERI SAID IN HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE WAS CURRENTLY IN PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING SUCH A PARTY BUT HE DID NOT GIVE ANY INDICATION WHEN ETHIOPIA WOULD RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE. HE SAID ETHIOPIA HAD DECIDED ON A ONE PARTY SYSTEM BECAUSE THE MULTI-PARTY ARRANGEMENT GENERALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CAUSED PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

END TEXT.

COMMENT: ASSUME DEPARTMENT WILL CLEAR APPROPRIATE MATERIAL CULLED FROM FOREGOING FOR BROADCASTING BY VOA.
HUMMEL

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